

# The PIT Count and Funding

**Strategies For Change**

thn.org

# Welcome and Introductions



# **Texas Homeless Network (THN)**



# THN

- Incorporated in 1991 to help the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless (TICH) carry out its legislatively mandated activities
- Mission: *Texas Homeless Network (THN) provides support to agencies and communities that are building systems to end homelessness in Texas through education, resources, and advocacy.*
- Funding from DSHS, TDHCA, HUD CoC Program



# Continuum of Care (CoC)



# What is a CoC?

A CoC, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the CoC Program Interim Rule at 24 CFR Part 578.3, is the group organized to carry out the responsibilities required under the CoC Program for a defined geographic area.

A community-based planning network for homelessness assistance.

The geographic area covered by the community-based planning network.

A program operated by the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Dev. (HUD)



# CoC Planning across the TX BoS CoC

- THN conducts CoC Planning activities with the entire TX BoS CoC, even in communities that do not have CoC Program-funded or ESG Program-funded projects.
  - Implementing best practices in housing interventions and service delivery
  - Collecting, analyzing, and reporting data, and making decisions using that data
  - Partnering with Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs)
  - Maximizing available resources and community strengths
  - Tailoring processes and activities to local needs

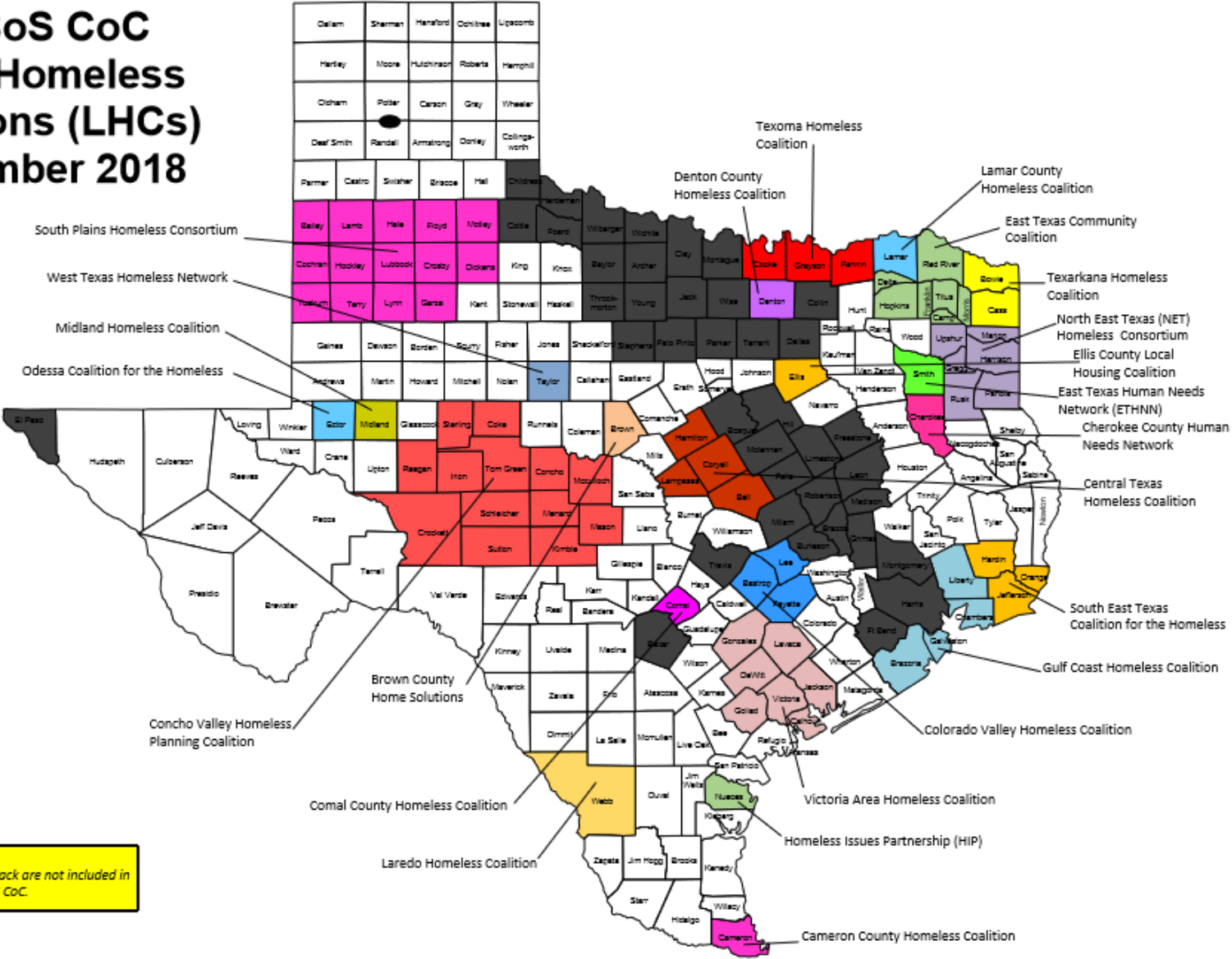


# LHCs Are Important!





# TX BoS CoC Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs) September 2018



# PIT/HIC as Community Needs Assessment

How do you know what to address?





# The Importance of the Point In Time Count



When we as a community better understand what our homeless population looks like, it's easier to determine what types of programs are needed to best serve our community.

## Information Gathered

-  The size and scope of the homeless population on any given day
-  Data on the causes of homelessness
-  Demographics on the homeless population
-  What types of services are needed in the community

## Benefits of the Count



Recognizes the needs for additional resources



Determines the allocation of federal funds



Measures the progress and performance of current programs



Increasing public awareness about homelessness



# Who are "the homeless"?

165 people living in shelters or on the street



**39%**

are children or under the age of 18



**32%**

have their high school diploma



**30%**

report having a mental or chronic health disability



**17%**

are domestic violence victims



**17%**

are unemployed or unable to pay rent/mortgage



**7%**

report having at least some college

**PIT + HIC =** 





# Who is Homeless?



Individuals  
& Families  
Living In:

- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Domestic Violence Shelter
- Safe Haven (none in TX BoS)
- Hotel/Motel paid for by voucher
- Places not meant for human habitation





# Who is NOT Homeless?

Individuals  
& Families  
Living In:

- Doubled-up situations
- Substandard housing
- PSH program
- Rapid Re-housing program
- Hotel/Motel paid for with own funds
- Locations using HUD-VASH vouchers
- Shelters designed for foster care or DFPS children



# Why do a Point-in-Time Count?



## FUNDING

- Eligibility to apply for CoC funds



## EXTENT

- Trends of homelessness in the local area
- Characteristics of those experiencing homelessness
- New programs



## AWARENESS

- Raise community awareness
- Raise political awareness





Browser tabs: Error Message, Inbox (33) - mary@thn.org, To-dos, Home - Texas Homeless Network

Address bar: <https://www.thn.org>

Navigation: Home | About | TX BoS CoC | Statewide Initiatives | Membership | Policy & Advocacy | HMIS | Data | Updates & Events | Join Us!

THN TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

Buttons: Donate, Become a Member

Dropdown menu (Data):

- Point in Time (PIT) Count Reports
- Annual Homeless Assessment Reports (AHAR)
- Housing Inventory Reports (HIC)
- System Performance Measures

Search bar with magnifying glass icon

Image: A damaged home in Rockport, Texas, after Hurricane Harvey hit the shore on August 26. Debris is scattered around a partially destroyed house.

Text overlay: A damaged home in Rockport, Texas, after Hurricane Harvey hit the shore on August 26. Click for a list of resources. We will continue to update them as we receive more.

Taskbar: Windows logo, Chrome, Edge, Firefox, Internet Explorer, File Explorer, Word, Excel, Paint, Texas state icon, PowerPoint, Desktop, System tray (4:00 PM 3/27/2018)





# Data

- Point-in-Time (PIT) Count -- How many people experiencing homelessness (i.e., needing housing & services) are counted on one night?
- Housing Inventory Count (HIC) -- How many beds are available for the people counted?
- System Performance Measures
  - View the local homeless response as a coordinated system of homeless assistance options as opposed to independently-operating homeless assistance programs and funding sources
  - Gauge communities' and CoCs' progress in preventing and ending homelessness



# SPMs (cont.)



- Length of time persons remain homeless
- Extent to which persons who exit homelessness to permanent housing destinations return to homelessness
- Number of homeless persons
- Employment and income growth for homeless persons
- Number of persons who become homeless for the first time
- Successful placement into permanent housing



# PIT Data

- January 2017 = 76 people

[https://www.thn.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/ConchoValley\\_TabularReport2017.pdf](https://www.thn.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/ConchoValley_TabularReport2017.pdf)

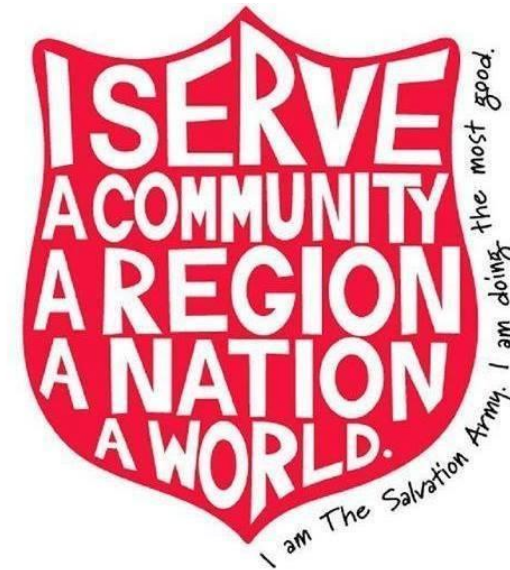
- January 2018 = 165 people

- 139 persons in households without children and 5 people in households with at least one adult and one child.
- 64 female (39%), 92 male (56%)
- 16 people under age 18, 8 between 18 and 24, and 141 over age 24.
- 7 CH, 7 vets, 8 unaccompanied youth.
- 14 SMI (14/51=27%), 8 SUD (8/51=16%), 1 HIV/AIDS (1/51=2%), 28 DV (28/51=55%).
- Mostly white (100/120=83%)
- 115 sheltered, 50 unsheltered

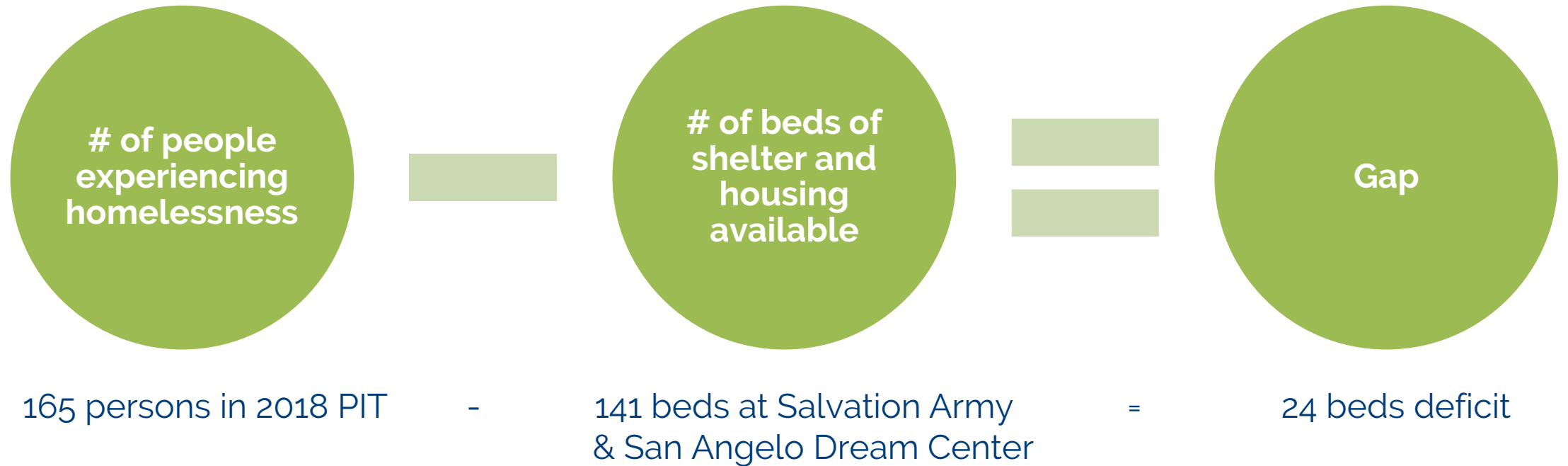


# HIC and Utilization Rate

- January 2017
  - The Salvation Army of San Angelo
    - 43 beds
    - 30 persons in 43 beds = 70% utilization rate
- January 2018
  - The Salvation Army of San Angelo
    - 133 beds
    - 84 persons in 133 beds = 63% utilization rate
  - San Angelo Dream Center
    - 8 beds
    - 6 persons in 8 beds = 75% utilization rate



# Gaps Analysis



## What does this mean?





# Other Data Sources

- **HMIS** – Salvation Army of San Angelo is currently using HMIS
- **Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions** – Entities that receive specific funds from HUD (CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, ESG) must assess the communities' needs, including homelessness and housing.
- **School districts** -- Every district must have a Homeless Education Liaison. That position is responsible for identifying and assisting homeless students. School districts may identify students as “homeless” in the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS).



# Other Data Sources

- **Public Housing Agencies** – People who apply for public housing may already be experiencing homelessness, and the PHA may track that data.
- **Health care providers** -- Some hospitals and clinics track how many people they serve who are experiencing homelessness, especially people who seek medical care in emergency departments or who use ambulance services.
- **Department of State Health Services** -- People in homeless situations often have low incomes and are eligible for benefits such as SNAP, WIC, and TANF. Staff might track the numbers of homeless persons who apply for benefits.





# Other Data Sources (cont.)

- **Faith communities** -- Faith communities offer food pantries, community meals, clothing, and financial assistance, and they may track homeless persons who seek that assistance.
- **Colleges and universities** -- Some have social work, public health, criminal justice, psychology, or other departments that collect and analyze population data, including the number of persons experiencing homelessness in the community.
- **City government** – Police departments, Parks and Recreation departments, and public health departments might encounter people in homeless situations.



# Funding

What's available and how do we qualify?



# Housing Programs

- HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program
  - Consolidated Application
    - CoC Application (entire CoC)
    - Project Applications (individual projects)
  - Competition on the CoC level
  - Project administration and operations for Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
  - HMIS and performance evaluation

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>



# HUD CoC Program in the TX BoS CoC

- THN is the “collaborative applicant”-- the group that applies to HUD for CoC Program funding for the TX BoS CoC
- THN runs a CoC-level competition to score and rank projects, based heavily on project performance
- HUD usually releases the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) around June, then THN releases a Request for Proposals (RFP)
- CoC Program competition materials are posted on THN's website at <https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/continuum-care-program/>
- THN will host a webinar for entities interested in learning about the competition



# CoC Program Basics

- CoC Toolkit: CoC Program and Eligible Costs --  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/toolkit/>
- FY2013 CoC Start Up Training: Program Components --  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/courses/coc-program-start-up-training-webinars-for-fy-2013-funds1/>
- Overview of CoC Program Components and Eligible Costs page on HUD Exchange --  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/courses/overview-of-coc-program-components-and-eligible-costs/>



# Housing Programs (cont.)

- Formula Grants
  - Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program
  - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
  - Home Investments Partnership (HOME) Program
    - Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) --  
<http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/home-division/tbra.htm>
  - Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)
  - Housing Trust Fund (HTF)  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/consolidated-plan/>



# State Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

- ESG pays for
  - Homelessness prevention
  - Street outreach to people living in un-sheltered situations
  - Emergency shelter
  - Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)
  - <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/esg/>
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) administers State ESG funding.
  - Next competition after March of 2019.
  - <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/home-division/esgp/index.htm>.



# Housing Programs (cont.)

- HUD Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities
  - <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/811-pra/>
- HUD Section 202 Supportive Housing for Elderly Persons
  - <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/section-202/>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Rural Development, Rural Housing Service
  - <https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/national-office/rhs>





# Public Housing Agencies (PHAs)

- Public Housing Agencies (PHAs)
  - Housing Choice Voucher Program (“Section 8”)
  - Public Housing
  - [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/pha/contacts](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/pha/contacts)
- Training: PHA 101 for CoCs
  - <https://www.hudexchange.info/course-content/pha-101-for-cocs-webinar/Final%20PHA%20101%20Webinar1.pdf>
- Training: CoC 101 for PHAs
  - <https://www.hudexchange.info/course-content/coc-101-for-phas-webinar/Webinar%202%20-%20CoC%20101%20for%20PHAs%201.pdf>



# Housing Programs (cont.)

- Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas' Affordable Housing Program (AHP)
  - <https://www.fhfb.com/community/Pages/Affordable-Housing-Program.aspx>
- Texas Housers – <https://texashousers.net/>
  - Texas Tenant Advisor -- <http://www.texastenant.org/>
  - Housing Counselor (housing search) -- <http://texashousingcounselor.org/>



# Coordinating Funding for RRH

- National Alliance to End Homelessness: Coordinating Diverse Funding Streams for Rapid Re-Housing
  - Multiple funders adopting a common vision and framework for the use of funds
  - A single entity managing multiple funding streams for the system and re-granting the funds
  - A single organization managing multiple funding streams and delivering services

<https://endhomelessness.org/resource/coordinating-diverse-funding-streams-for-rapid-re-housing/>



# Housing Options

- Establish a Family Promise network--faith communities shelter people and provide volunteer support, child care, and a day center. Households shelter with different faith communities every week.

<https://familypromise.org/start-an-affiliate/>

- Engage local landlords to discount rent for tenants who are working with a case manager, service provider, or faith community.

<https://endhomelessness.org/resource/landlord-outreach-strategies/>

- Work with the local Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) to implement a "preference" for where people in homeless situations are prioritized for moving into housing ahead of people who are not experiencing homelessness or a set-aside, where units are set aside to house people exiting homeless situations.

[https://www.hudexchange.info/course-content/overview-of-pih-notice-2013-15-guidance-on-housing-individuals-and-families-experiencing-homelessne/Webinar%201-Notice%20PIH%202013-15%20\\_%20Final.pdf](https://www.hudexchange.info/course-content/overview-of-pih-notice-2013-15-guidance-on-housing-individuals-and-families-experiencing-homelessne/Webinar%201-Notice%20PIH%202013-15%20_%20Final.pdf)



# Tom Green County Opportunities



# Sampling of Currently Funded Projects

- CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Funds– used for preserving affordable housing & homelessness prevention.
- HOME Investment Partnership Program Funds – used to create & acquire affordable housing for low to moderate income households
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance - Mental Health Services for the Concho Valley
- HUD-VASH – San Angelo Public Housing Authority
- Affordable Housing Assistance Program (AHAP) - Galilee CDC
- USDA Rural Development – repairs for low-income, over 62



# Other Ideas

- San Angelo Public Housing Authority (PHAs) has a “homeless” preferences and/or unit/voucher set-asides for homeless persons in public housing and/or Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher programs. Do the other 7 PHAs?
- Is the Mental Health Services for the Concho Valley qualified for Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) funding?
- Disability Connections Resource Center - Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Housing Navigator
  - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1z0uFZRZTFdzYZhZ5W3Ng4-hjnPnvFnnoD1TLuyztois/pubhtml#>



# Stay Competitive for Funding



- Funders look for:
  - Other funding sources
  - Community collaboration
  - Data
  - Positive trends in data
  - Past success





# Next Steps

- Conduct your HIC/PIT count & analyze your PIT data
- Follow up on “other funding opportunities”
- Other ideas?



# Contact Information

**Mary Rychlik, LMSW**

**CoC Manager**

**[Mary@thn.org](mailto:Mary@thn.org)**

**512-861-2180**

**Jen Beardsley**

**Coordination & Engagement  
VISTA**

**[Jen@thn.org](mailto:Jen@thn.org)**

**512-861-2154**

**Kyra Henderson**

**PIT Point Person**

**[kyra@thn.org](mailto:kyra@thn.org)**

**[www.thn.org](http://www.thn.org)**

